

# **SAN JOAQUIN RIVER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ADVISORY COUNCIL**

June 16, 2004

Stanislaus County Agricultural Center  
Stanislaus Building Main Conference Room  
3800 Cornucopia Way  
Modesto, California

## **DRAFT AGENDA**

- 9:00 a.m. Welcome and Introductions
- 9:15 a.m. Report from Subcommittee on SJRMP Letters of Consistency
- 9:45 a.m. Update on San Joaquin River Restoration Coordination
  - USBR/DWR/DFG and Friant – Mario Santoyo, FWUA and Valerie Curley, USBR
  - SJR RMC and USEPA - Carolyn Yale, USEPA
- 10:00 a.m. Actions responding to CV RWQCB proposed salt and boron TMDL for the SJR – Paula Landis, DWR
- 10:30 a.m. Report on DWR Prop 50 Integrated Regional Water Management – John Woodling, DWR
- 11:00a.m. CBDA/DWR-Bulletin 160 Regional Profile discussion - Landis and Tim Ramirez, CBDA
- 11:30 a.m. San Joaquin River Drainage Program update - Jose Faria, DWR
- 12:00 p.m. Other Business
- 12:15 p.m. Adjourn

# **SAN JOAQUIN RIVER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ADVISORY COUNCIL**

## **MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

June 16, 2004  
Stanislaus County Agricultural Center  
Modesto, California

### **Welcome and Introductions**

The San Joaquin River Management Program Advisory Council met at the Stanislaus County Agricultural Center in Modesto, California. There were no comments on the draft minutes of the April 1, 2004 meeting. Draft minutes from the most recent meeting and pertinent documents are posted on the SJRMP website at:

[http://www.sjrmp.ca.gov/members/ad\\_council/index.cfm](http://www.sjrmp.ca.gov/members/ad_council/index.cfm)

### **SJRMP Letters of Consistency**

Tim Ramirez, California Bay-Delta Authority, discussed the current letters of consistency approval process. A teleconference was held between several members of SJRMP to decide on a new process and direction for the letters of consistency and SJRMP's goals and principles. SJRMP and many of the issues associated with the San Joaquin River have changed since the Management Plan was written in 1995. SJRMP has moved towards an open forum format, encouraging the participation of many groups with a variety of different agendas and missions. Many members questioned the use and relevance of a letter of consistency from SJRMP. Grant programs encourage applicants to participate in local outreach to stakeholders that could be impacted by the proposed project. SJRMP's role could be to provide feedback and connect the applicants to the groups and individuals they could contact for letters of support. There was discussion as to what new process the letters should follow. Ramirez has volunteered to write a summary of what was discussed and proposed for the letters of consistency. In addition, an effort may be made to create a status report of the SJRMP 1995 Management Plan if staff time permits.

### **CBDA/DWR Bulletin 160 Regional Profile Discussion**

In the past Bulletin 160 has been strictly a DWR report. There was some controversy with the last Bulletin 160 produced in 1998. As a result the CBDA and DWR have combined their knowledge to produce regional reports to be included in the current update. Hardcopies of the current regional report for Chapter 7, San Joaquin River Hydrologic Region, and Chapter 8, Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region reports were available to attendees for review. The Regional reports can be viewed online at <http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/b160/workgroups/chapterreviewgroup.htm>.

## **DWR Proposition 50 – Integrated Regional Water Management**

John Woodling, DWR, presented the current Prop 50 Chapter 8 “Integrated Regional Water Management” program overview. California is planning for increased water demands and reduced supplies due to an estimated population increase of 50% by 2030, additional environmental requirements for construction of new water supply facilities, increased diversions by water rights holders, and global climate changes. Most regions in the state have shortages which increased the burden on groundwater. Integrated water management is “a process for determining the appropriate mix of demand management and supply augmentation options that provide long term, reliable water supply for all beneficial uses at the lowest reasonable cost and with the highest possible benefits to water users, economic development, environmental quality, and other societal objectives.” (*paraphrases California Water Plan, Chapter 4 (draft)*). Some water management strategies include land use changes, water transfers/water marketing, groundwater recharge and flood control. The IRWM program will seek to combine its efforts with current watershed management. The goal is to bring individual watershed management groups together building toward a larger regional plan. The State’s role is to provide data, technical support, financial assistance, and legislation and regulation.

Under joint DWR/SWRCB management, the IRWM program objectives include protection for communities from drought, protect and improve water quality, reduce dependence on imported water, and promote integrated water management and regional planning. Approximately \$380 million is available to fund a variety of eligible projects designed to improve or enhance water supply reliability, water quality/source control/desalination, water conservation, environmental restoration, watershed management, and flood control. Staff is still working on program guidelines. Eligible proposals will fall under either planning or implementation categories. Cost sharing is required. The tentative schedule is to have the final guideline package out in October with applications due by December. For updates on this schedule please look online at <http://www.grantsloans.water.ca.gov> or contact Tracie Billington at [tracieb@water.ca.gov](mailto:tracieb@water.ca.gov) or (916) 651-9226.

Background information about Prop 50 can be found online at <http://www.water.ca.gov/docs/prop-50-intro.doc>.

## **Update on San Joaquin River Restoration Coordination**

Mario Santoyo, FWUA and Valerie Curley, USBR updated the group on the current status of scientific investigations and recommendations on the San Joaquin River for the Friant Dam to Merced River confluence reach. The focus of the current study is broader than the original objective, so there were questions concerning the FWUA/USBR final product. The final project objectives were coordinated with DFG to investigate “all aquatics species and habitats”, list scientific study recommendations “tool box” for consideration by others, and encourage a multi-agency partnership for SJR management alternatives development program. FWUA, USBR and DFG worked together to assimilate different data that would meet the project objectives.

Task 1 was to describe the existing water temperature and water quality in Millerton Lake and the SJR. USBR and DFG installed site specific monitoring stations for the monitoring of the Lake and the River. The data could be used to model the existing water temperatures, determine how water temperature changes, what the baseline conditions are, etc. The data will also be used to describe the existing fishery conditions. DFG is currently conducting aquatic sampling on the SJR.

Task 2 is to review the existing native fisheries and habitat enhancement actions on other regulated river systems. FWUA identified and analyzed existing approaches to habitat enhancement and fishery management practices, evaluated existing approaches for strengths and weaknesses, assembled a reference library with documentation reports, and reviewed management plans and other relevant documents. Task 3 is to develop the life history and habitat needs of native and non-native fish. FWUA will identify and list native and non-native fish to study, investigate the life history of each and document, and develop quantitative descriptions of habitat characteristics. Task 4 will be to develop a plan of action by reviewing the past and current study efforts on the SJR and identify significant data gaps, review information produced in Tasks 1, 2, and 3, and develop recommendations for future scientific studies.

The study findings will be handed over to a group that can complete the plan in coordination with the State and federal governments, stakeholders, etc. The documents should be ready for public release in a week or two. Santoyo will provide the final draft of the study to SJRMP for public access on the website.

### **Agricultural Drainage Program**

Jose I. Faria, DWR, described the current agricultural drainage program. The San Joaquin District conducts many studies to monitor or benefit the San Joaquin River. Some of these activities include drainage monitoring and evaluation, treatment, reduction and reuse, environmental services, integrated drainage management, and Proposition 204 funding. The District publishes an Annual Drainage Monitoring Report, Electrical Conductivity Contour maps, Depth to Shallow Groundwater Contour maps, and tables/graphs for the SJR Real-time water quality monitoring program. These items can be found on the District's website at <http://www.sjd.water.ca.gov>.

Faria summarized some of the treatment projects that are currently being conducted in the Valley. The purpose of the program is to "investigate the technical feasibility of processes for reclamation of drainage water through the removal of salts, selenium and other contaminants". There are several activities or pilot projects to desalt ag drainage water. One current pilot project is a three-year project to estimate cost and feasibility of desalting shallow groundwater on a local farm.

Program activities also include drainage reduction and reuse. The goal is to "reduce drainage water at the source and maintain a salt balance in the crop zone to ensure sustainability and productivity of these lands". Staff are currently developing irrigation management technologies, on-farm demonstration projects, and assisting growers to

irrigate more efficiently and reduce drainage water. Several reports have been released: summary report on demonstration and study projects; Irrigation Manual (PSW RCD); and Drainage Connection (WC News).

Integrated on Farm Drainage Management is the newest part of the program. Activities include monitoring and sampling shallow groundwater for salinity and selenium movement, conducting a solar evaporator demonstration project, public outreach about IFDM, conducting IFDM workshops, and providing a technical manual for IFDM implementation. Proposition 204 is a 6 year contract to fund activities geared toward drainage activities. Prop 204 will release \$4.6 million in the next 4 years and will begin releasing money suspended pending exemption from the contract freeze. Future work may include a subsurface drainage water desalting plant, salt gradient solar pond, enhanced evaporation, ag drainage water reclamation, aquaculture, and bio diesel development. Many of these tools could be used to create a healthier environment for the River and the San Joaquin Valley.

### **Other Business**

Charlie Kratzer, USGS, handed out the latest publication of the Water-Quality Assessment of the San Joaquin – Tulare Basins (NAWQA). Information can be found online at <http://ca.water.usgs.gov/sanji/>.

**The Next Advisory Council Meeting:** is scheduled on Wednesday, September 15 at 9:00 am at the Stanislaus County Agricultural Center.

**ATTENDEES AT  
SAN JOAQUIN RIVER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
June 16, 2004**

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